

## The committee of qualifications report, that the confederation was ratified in March, 1781

### The Committee of Qualifications report,

**THAT** the confederation was ratified in March, 1781—That by a law of the state of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, delegates are to be annually elected on the first Wednesday in May. That Mr. Ellery was elected in May, 1781, a delegate to represent the state of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations for one year, and took his seat in Congress, November 19th, 1781, and held his seat until the 7th June, 1782.

That Mr. Howell was elected in May, 1782, to represent the said state for one year, and took his seat the 7th June, 1782, and continued in Congress until January 5, 1783.

That Mr. Howell was a second time elected in May, 1783, took his seat in Congress July 23d, 1783, and held his seat until June 3d, 1784.

That Mr. Ellery was a second time elected in May, 1783, took his seat in Congress June 30th, 1783, held his seat therein until the adjournment of Congress June 4th, 1784. That he was appointed one of the Committee of the States, and took his seat there 6th June, 1784. That the Committee of the States did adjourn on that day, and did not meet again until the 26th of June; and that it does not appear that Mr. Ellery did again take his seat in the Committee of the States.

That the right of Mr. Howell and Mr. Ellery to sit in Congress from May to June 1784, was disputed, but no question was determined affirmatively for nor against them.

That the usage of Congress has been to permit the delegates of the state of Rhode-Island, to sit in Congress for a year, not having reference to the time of election, which seems to be founded on an act of the legislature of that state, passed 22d August, 1777, by which

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it is resolved, "That the delegates appointed, or who may be appointed to represent this state in Congress, be, and they or either of them are hereby empowered to represent said state in Congress, until they or either of them shall have due notice of their re-election, or until the delegates who may be appointed in their room shall take their seats in Congress; the act directing the election of the said delegates for one year to the contrary notwithstanding."

That Congress did by their resolution of 23d March 1784, recommend to the states, to comply with the confederation, by electing their delegates to commence their seats, the first Monday in November of each year.

That Mr. Howell and Mr. Ellery were a third time elected in May, 1784, to represent the said state for one year. That by the credentials of the said delegates, it appears that the legislature of the said state did, in the month of June, pass and act declaring the said delegates should take their seats in Congress the first Monday November, 1784.

That the said delegates did take their seats the 29th and 30th November, 1784, in the present Congress.

Wherefore your committee are of opinion, that the delegates of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations have a right to sit in Congress until the first Monday in November next.

Mr. Johnson